

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, Pt. 3

Multiple Scripture References

Fundamental points concerning prayer:

Point 1: We **must** pray because the will of God is not released for action until we do.

Matt. 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

2 Chron. 7.14 If my people...pray...then...I will heal their land.

Point 2: We must pray according to **God's will** and not our own.

Matt. 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Point 3: We must pray **believing** that He will hear and will answer our petitions

Matt. 21:22 ...whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Ten Hindrances to Prayer

1. **U**_____

John 9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

Prov. 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him... 29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Ps. 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

2. **S**_____

Psalms 66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. 17 I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. 18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

1 John 3:21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

3. **D**_____

Numbers 14:8 If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.

Deut. 1:41 ...every one of you fastened on his weapons of war and thought it easy to go up into the hill country. 42 And the LORD said to me (Moses), "Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies." 43 So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the LORD and presumptuously went up into the hill country. 44 Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah. 45 And you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD did not listen to your voice or give ear to you.

Isa. 1:4 Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Jer. 11.11-14; 14.12; Micah 3.4

4. U_____

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Mark 11:23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Rom. 4:20 He (Abraham) staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

5. Disregard for S_____

Prov. 28:9 If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Prov. 1:24 Since you rejected me when I called and no-one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, 25 since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, 26 I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you... 28 Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. 29 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD,

Zec. 7:11 They refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of

hosts. 13 "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the LORD of hosts.

6. I_____

Eze. 14:3 "Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? ... 6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. 7 For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself. 8 And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

7. U_____

Matt. 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Paraphrase: Forgive us for offending You in the same manner that we forgive those who have offended us.

Mark 11:25 Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Matt. 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Message: I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer.

Rom. 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if

he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Cor. 4:12 When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; 13 when slandered, we entreat (*answer kindly* – NIV)

1 Pet. 3:9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. (NLT)

Matt. 5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment... 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matt. 18:19 ...if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

Paraphrase:

If two of you are in disagreement, no matter what they ask, it won't be done. Where two or three are gathered in my name in disunity, I will be absent from their midst.

8. S _____

James 4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

Suppose here a response from the people: "But we do pray."

Then John answered...

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

9. Ignoring the p _____

Prov. 21:13 Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

Deut. 15:7 If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 10 You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

10. Unhealthy m _____ relationship

1 Pet. 3:5 ...holy women of the past...were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master...7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Adapted from Warren Wiersbe:

- 1) Are you partners or competitors?
- 2) Are you helping each other become more spiritual?
- 3) Are you depending on the externals or the eternal? The artificial or the real?
- 4) Do you understand each other better?
- 5) Are you sensitive to each other's feelings and ideas, or taking each other for granted?
- 6) Are you seeing God answer your prayers?
- 7) Are you enriched because of your marriage, or robbing each other of God's blessing?